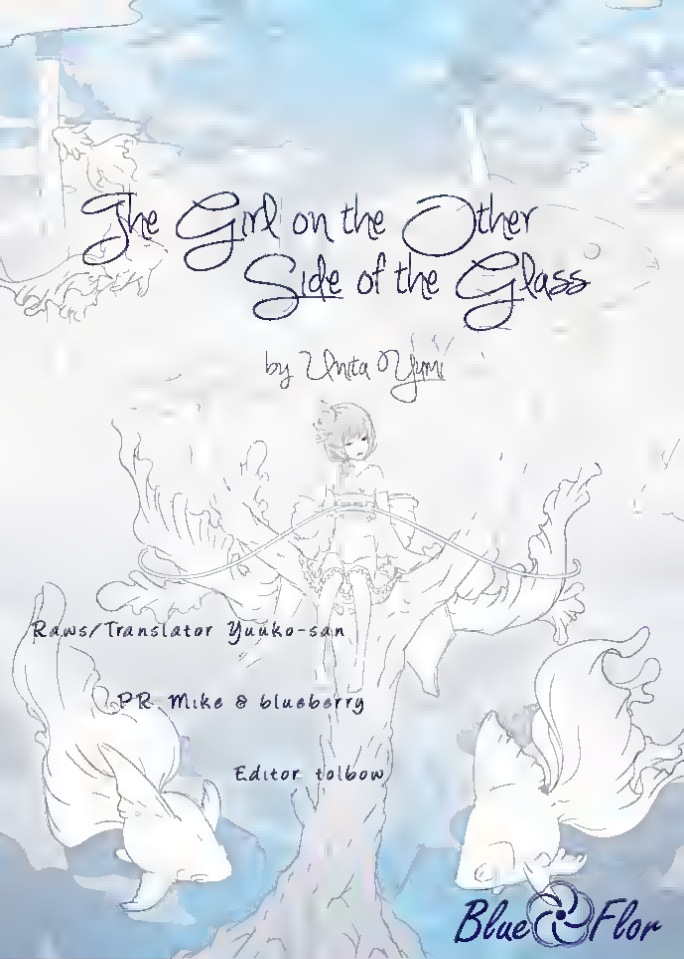
The Girl on the Other Side of the Glass

by Unita Yuri



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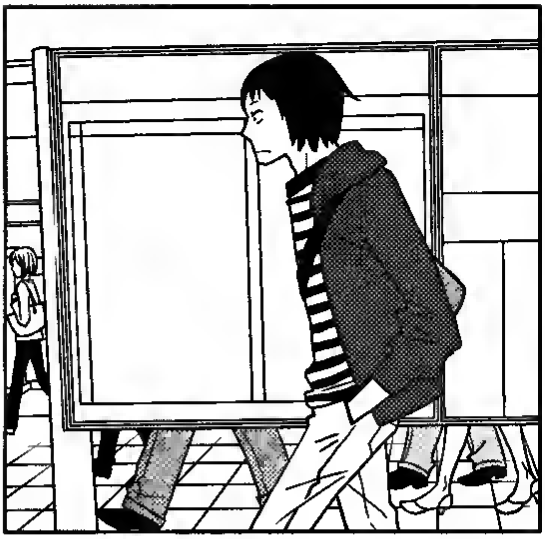
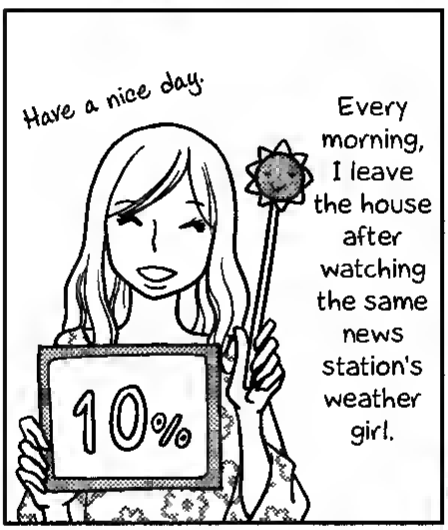
The girl on the other side of the glass

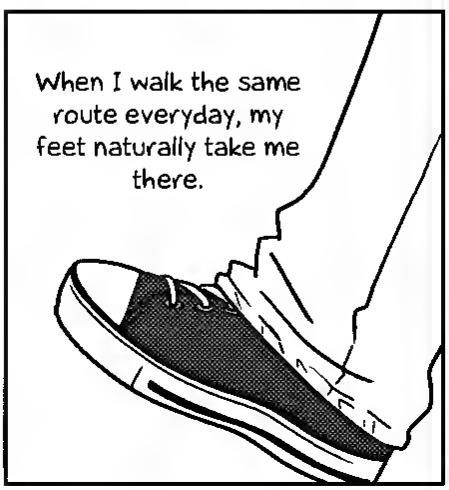
Even the briefest of encounters become ordinary when repeated

Unita Yumi

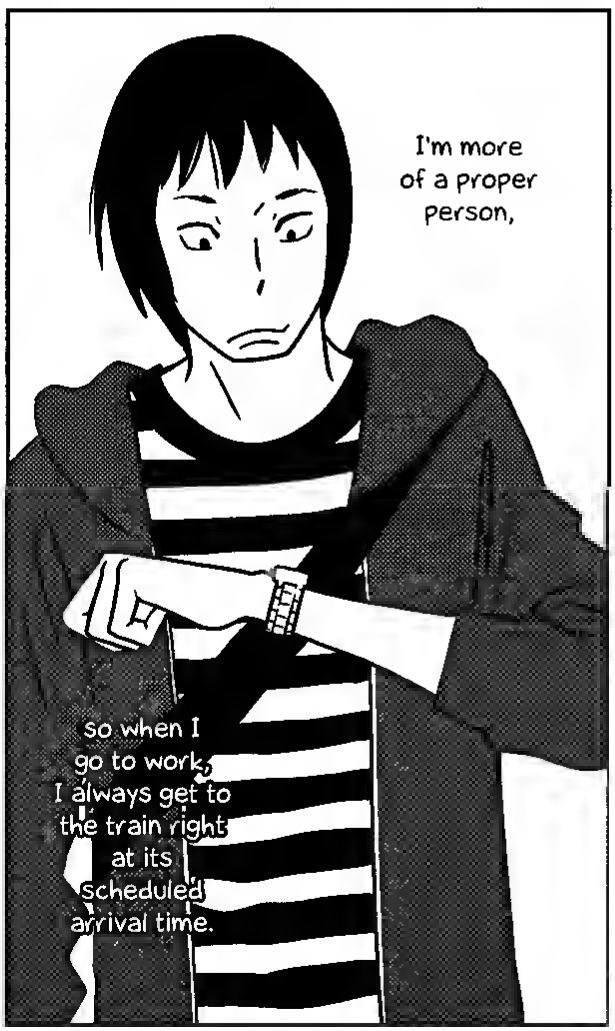




Every morning, I leave the house after watching the same news station's weather girl.



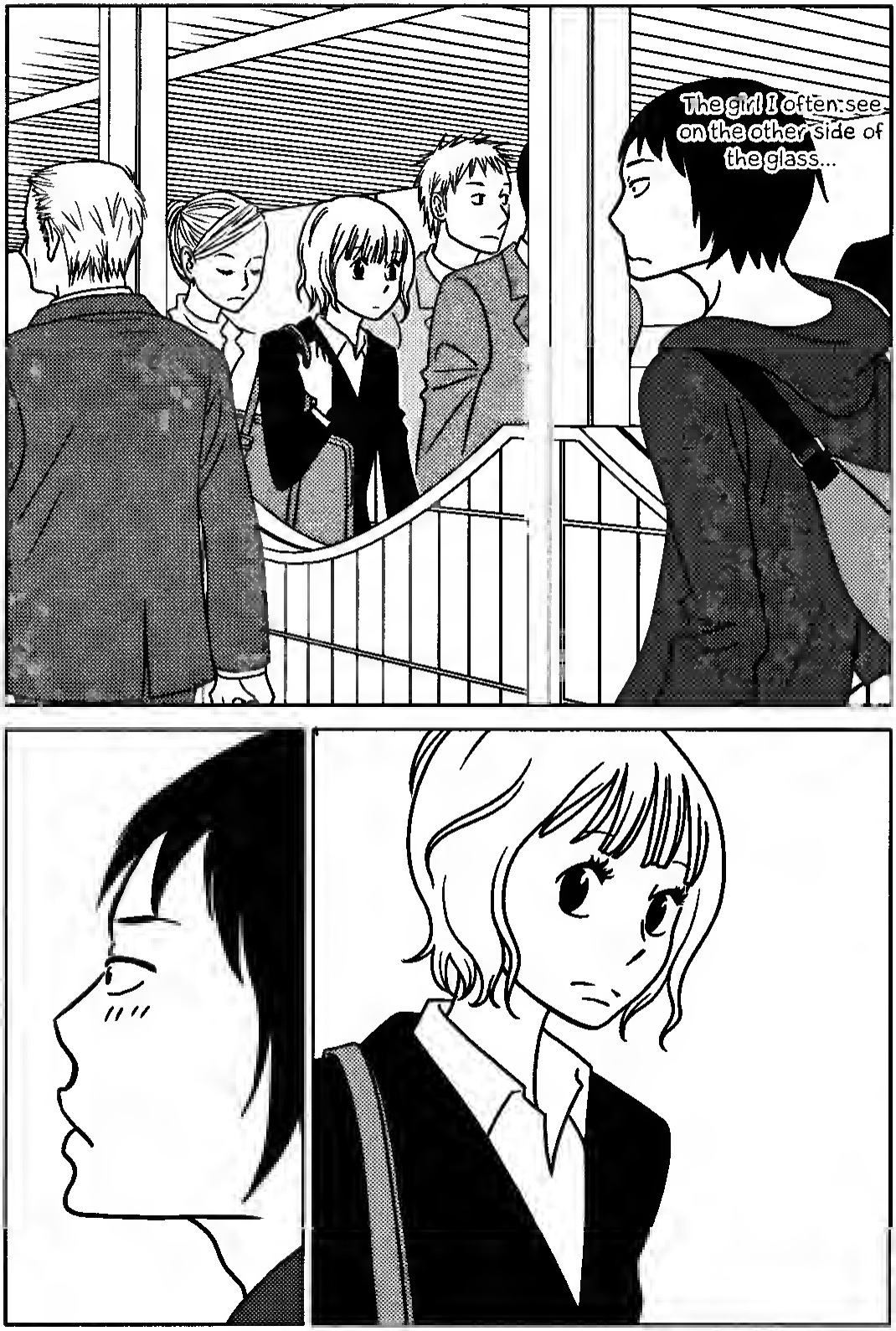
When I walk the same route everyday, my feet naturally take me there.



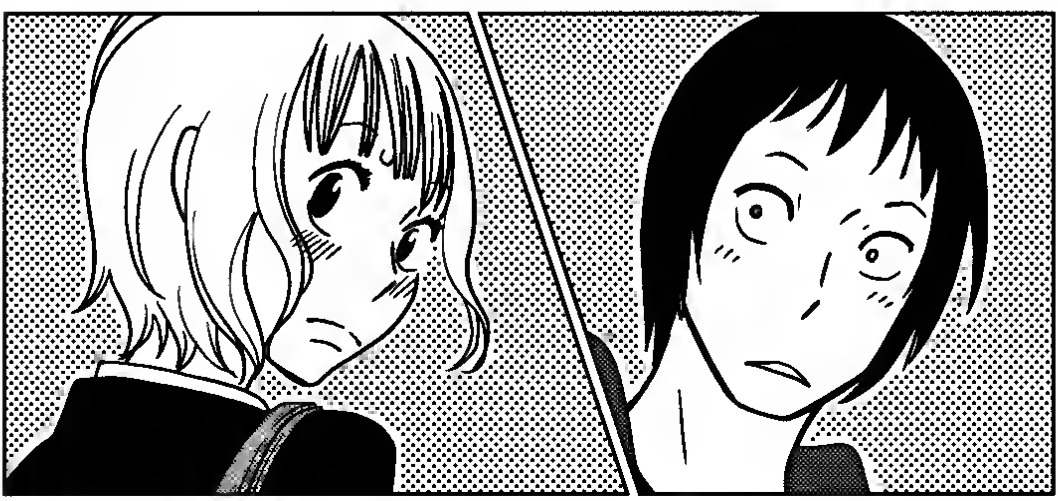
I'm more of a proper person,

so when I go to work, I always get to the train right at its scheduled arrival time.

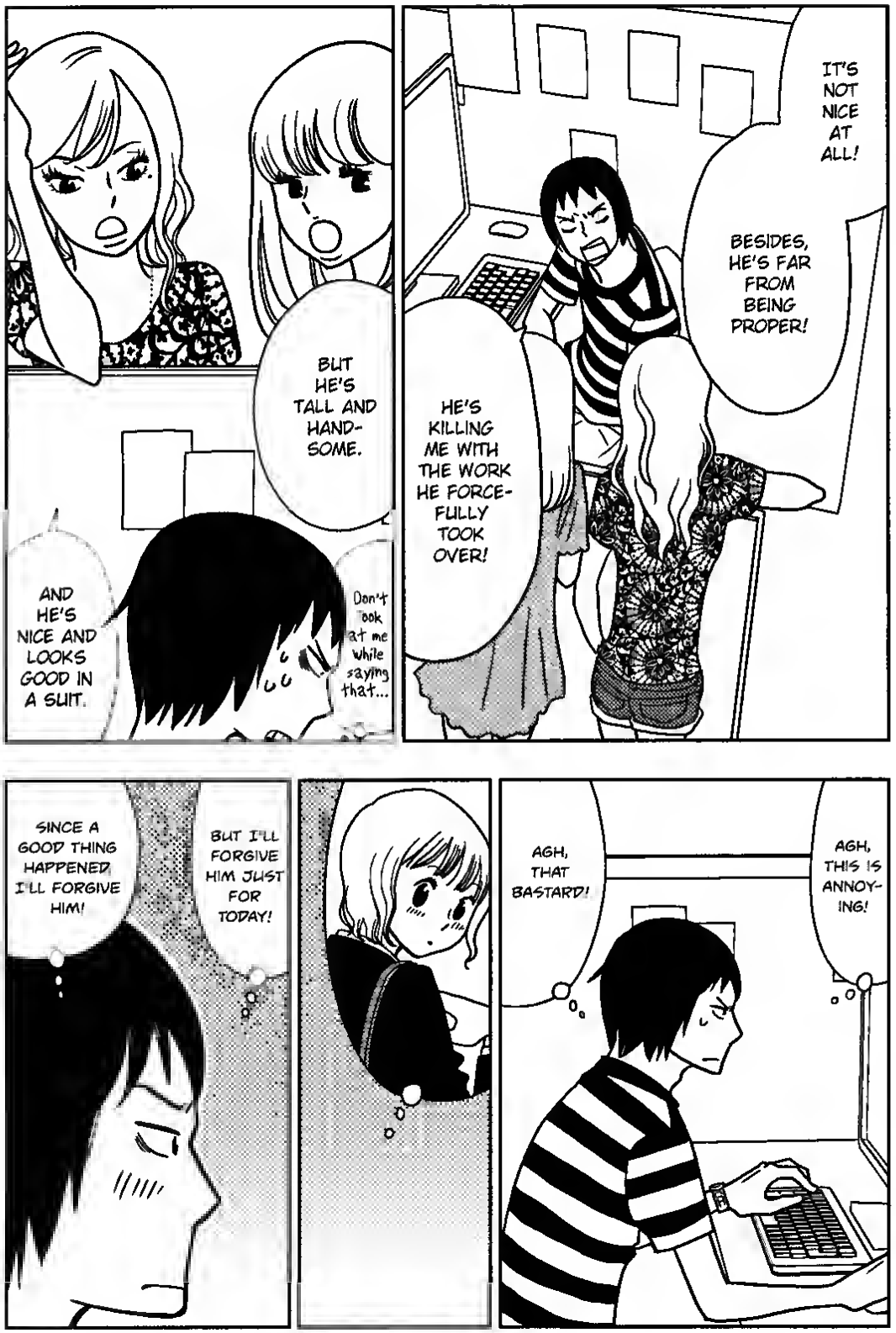
Then a little while ago,
I started seeing the same girl in the same area at the train station on a daily basis.
our eyes meet.
Well, when I say see, I mean,

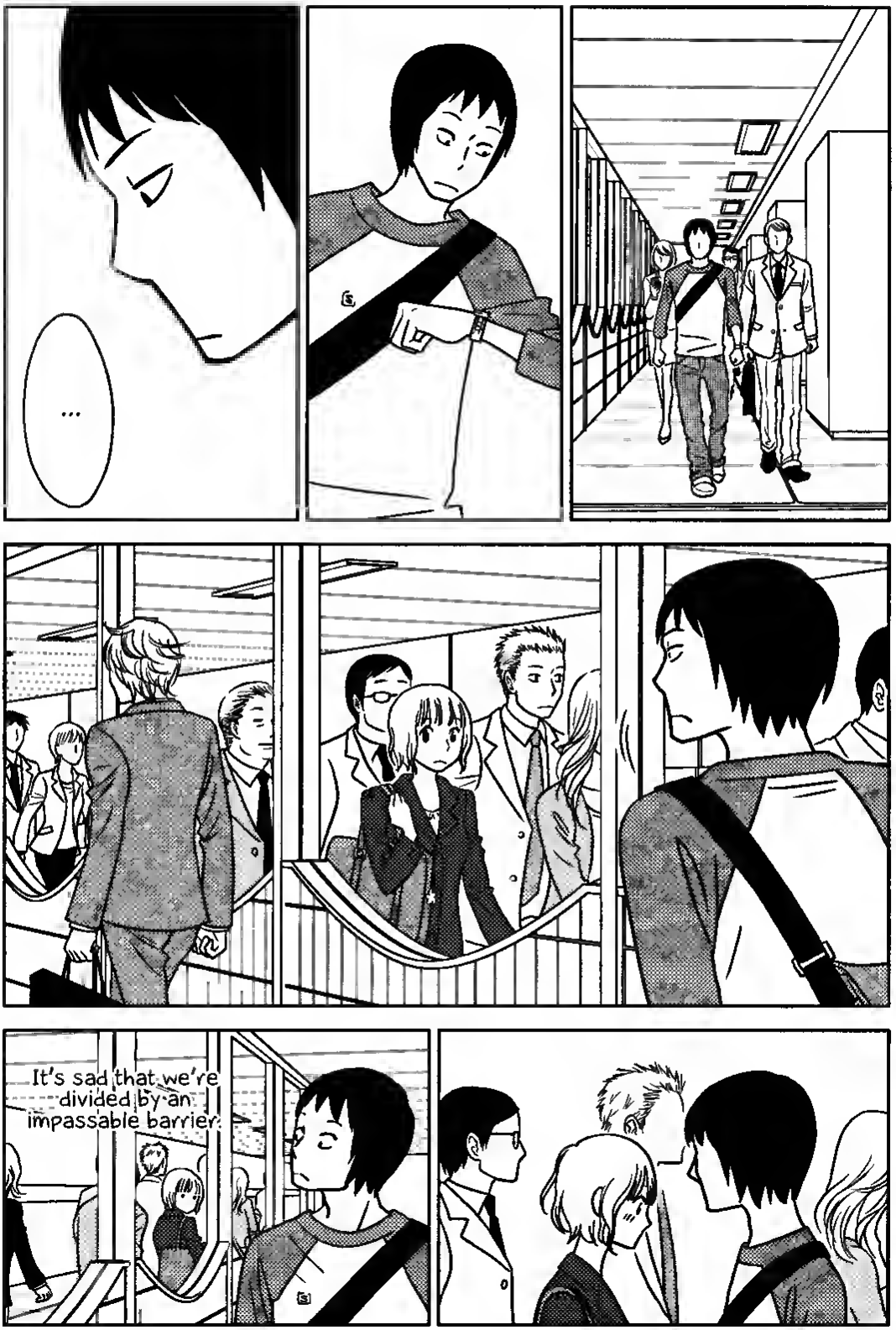

The girl I often see on the other side of the glass...

It's rush hour. Everyone's in a hurry,
and she's on the other side of the glass, so we're both being pushed in opposite directions.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE... SO SHE MUST'VE RECENTLY GRADUATED
I WONDER WHICH COMPANY SHE GOES TO FROM HERE...
SHE'S PRETTY...
There's nothing I can do.
...

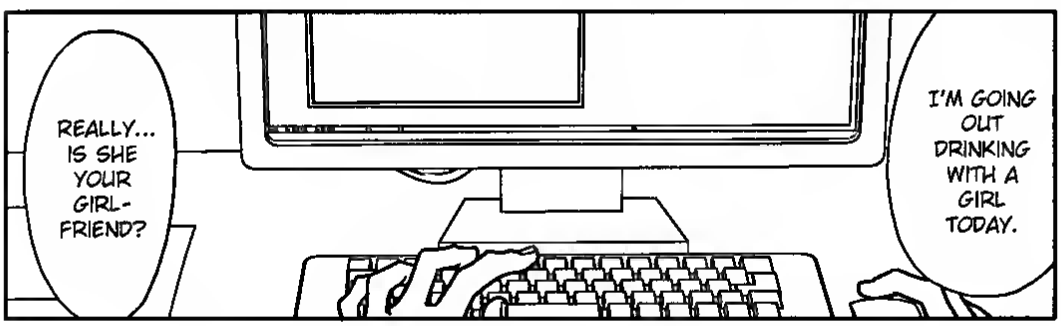


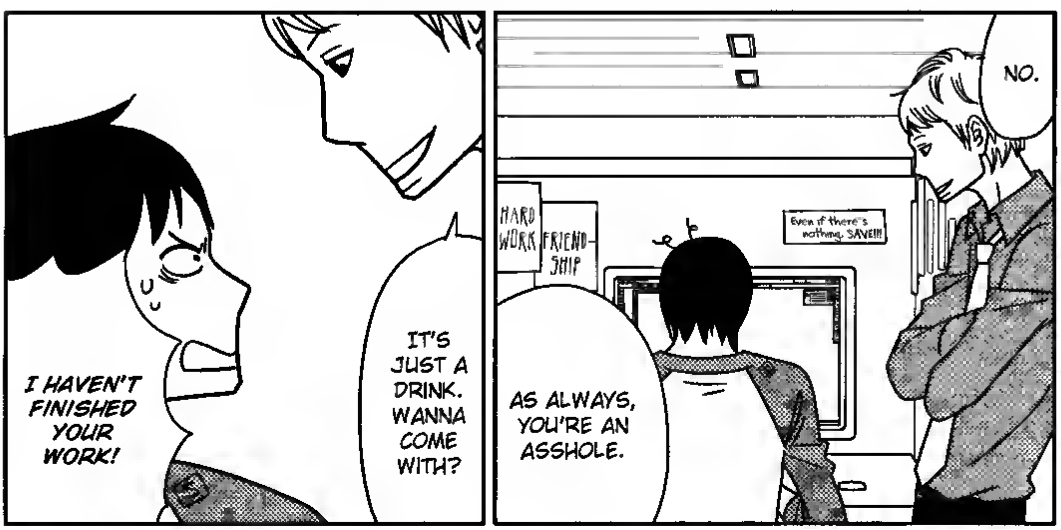
SHE LOOKED BACK...
...
AS USUAL, SHIMAZAKI-SAN IS LOOKING GOOD.
THE SALES DEPARTMENT'S SO PROPER.
OUR STATION'S STYLE IS A LITTLE SLOPPY, YOU KNOW?

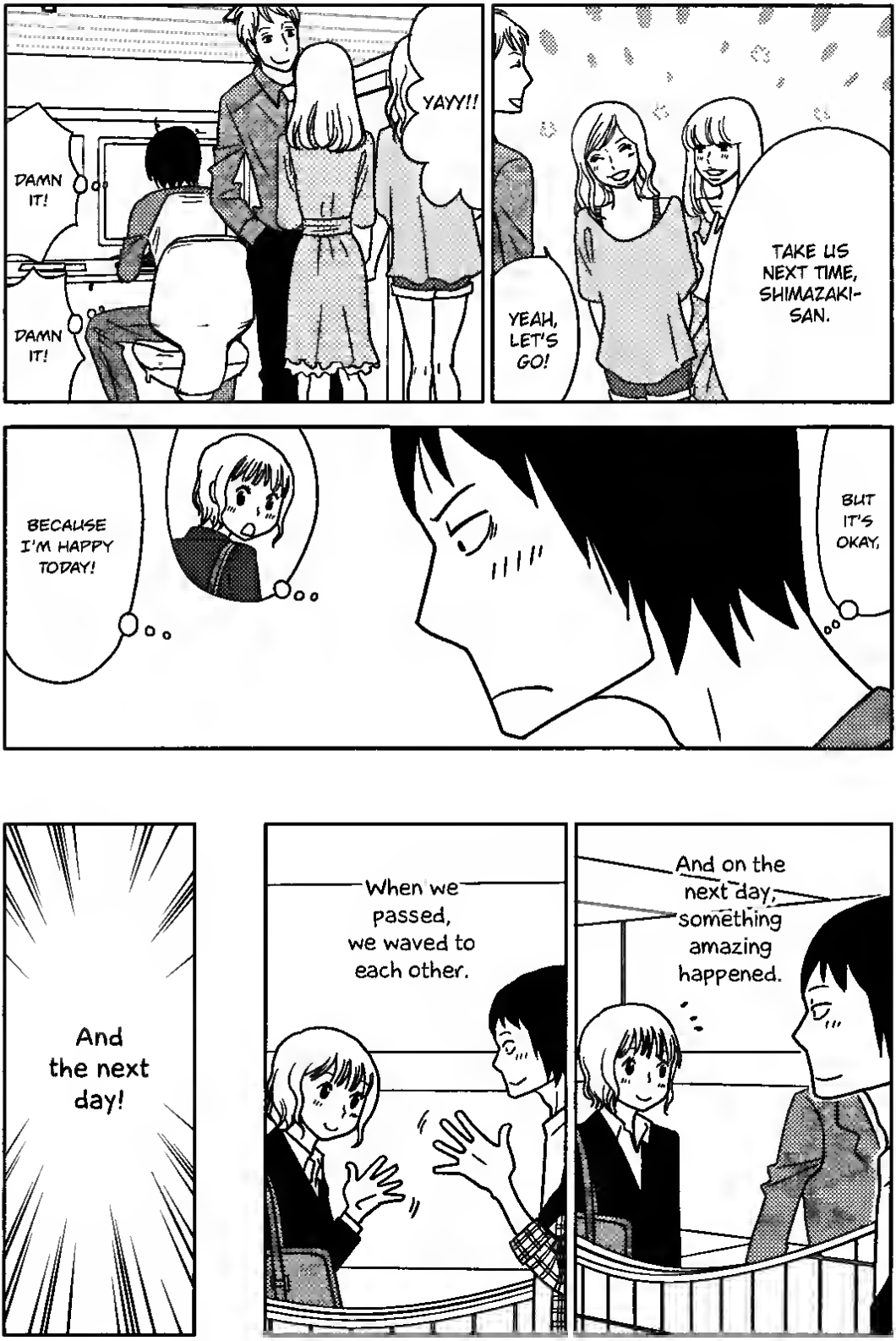

AND HE'S NICE AND LOOKS GOOD IN A SUIT.
Don't look at me while saying that...
BUT HE'S TALL AND HAND-SOME.
HE'S KILLING ME WITH THE WORK HE FORCE-FULLY TOOK OVER!
BESIDES, HE'S FAR FROM BEING PROPER!
IT'S NOT NICE AT ALL!
SINCE A GOOD THING HAPPENED, I'LL FORGIVE HIM!
BUT I'LL FORGIVE HIM JUST FOR TODAY!
AGH, THAT BASTARD!
AGH, THIS IS ANNOY-ING!


...
It's sad that we're divided by an impassable barrier.

it's probably all right if I stare at her from close by...
But that's all the more reason


REALLY... IS SHE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
I'M GOING OUT DRINKING WITH A GIRL TODAY.


I HAVEN'T FINISHED YOUR WORK!
IT'S JUST A DRINK. WANNA COME WITH?
AS ALWAYS, YOU'RE AN ASSHOLE.
HARD WORK
FRIEND-SHIP
Even if there's nothing, SAVE!!!
NO.


YAYY!!
DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!
TAKE US NEXT TIME, SHIMAZAKI-SAN.
YEAH, LET'S GO!
BECAUSE I'M HAPPY TODAY!
BUT IT'S OKAY.
And the next day!
When we passed, we waved to each other.
And on the next day, something amazing happened.

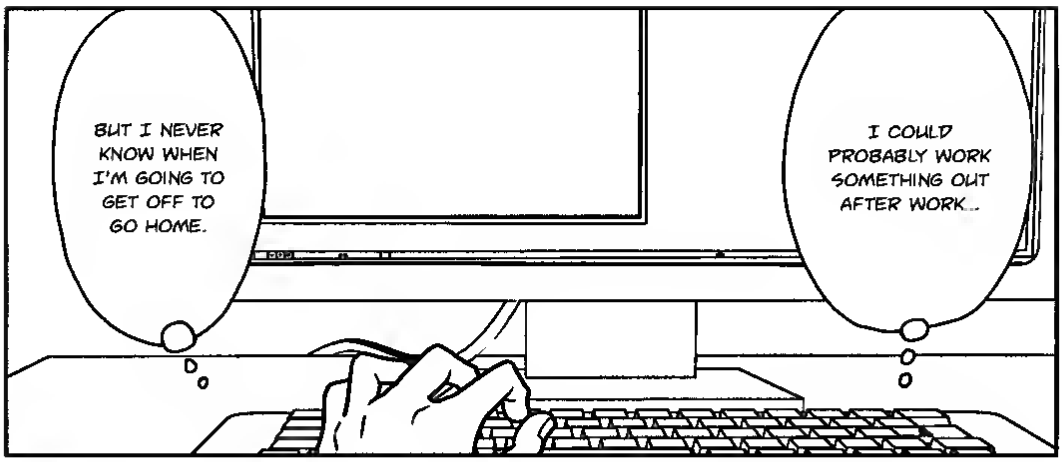
SHE'S WALKING WITH A MAN!!
WHAT'S WITH THEM BEING SO FRIENDLY...
AND THAT MAN IS... WEARING A FREAKING SUIT!!
...HE ALSO LOOKS LIKE A NEW EMPLOYEE... I WONDER IF THEY JOINED AT THE SAME TIME... THEY'RE DEFINITELY PART OF THE SAME COMPANY.

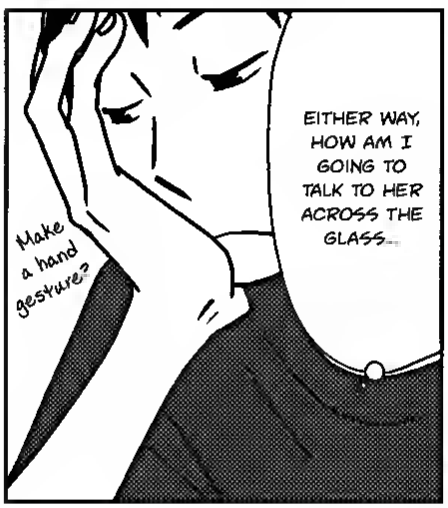
HE WAS WEARING A FREAKING SUIT!
(REPEATS)

The next day,
and just walked on past the glass.
she didn't look this way at all,

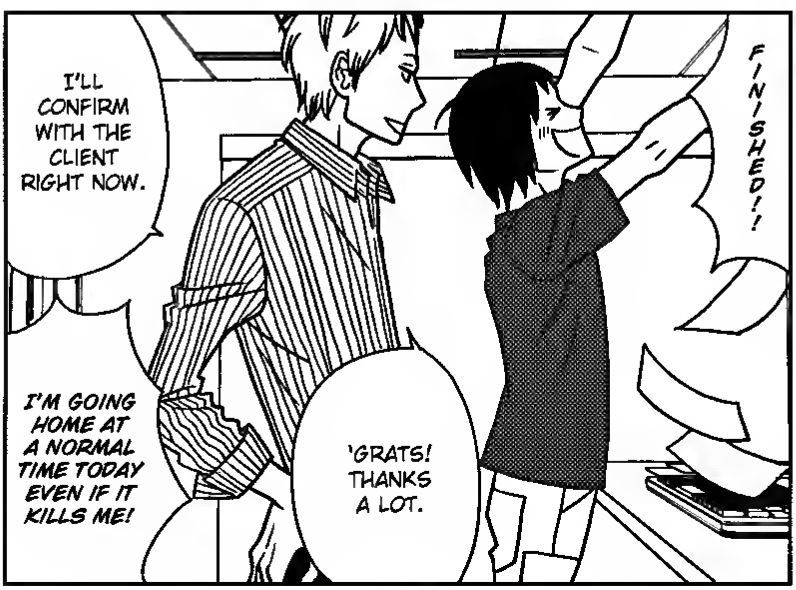
and a busy morning
Aghhhhh... I wish I could ask her who she is.
But she's always on the other side of the glass,

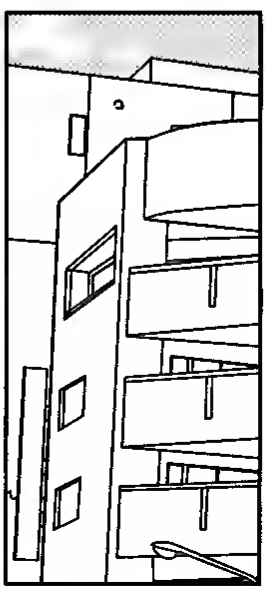
It's a place where we're so close but can never touch.
makes this place like an aquarium full of people and fish.
We just drift away...


BUT I NEVER KNOW WHEN I'M GOING TO GET OFF TO GO HOME.
I COULD PROBABLY WORK SOMETHING OUT AFTER WORK...

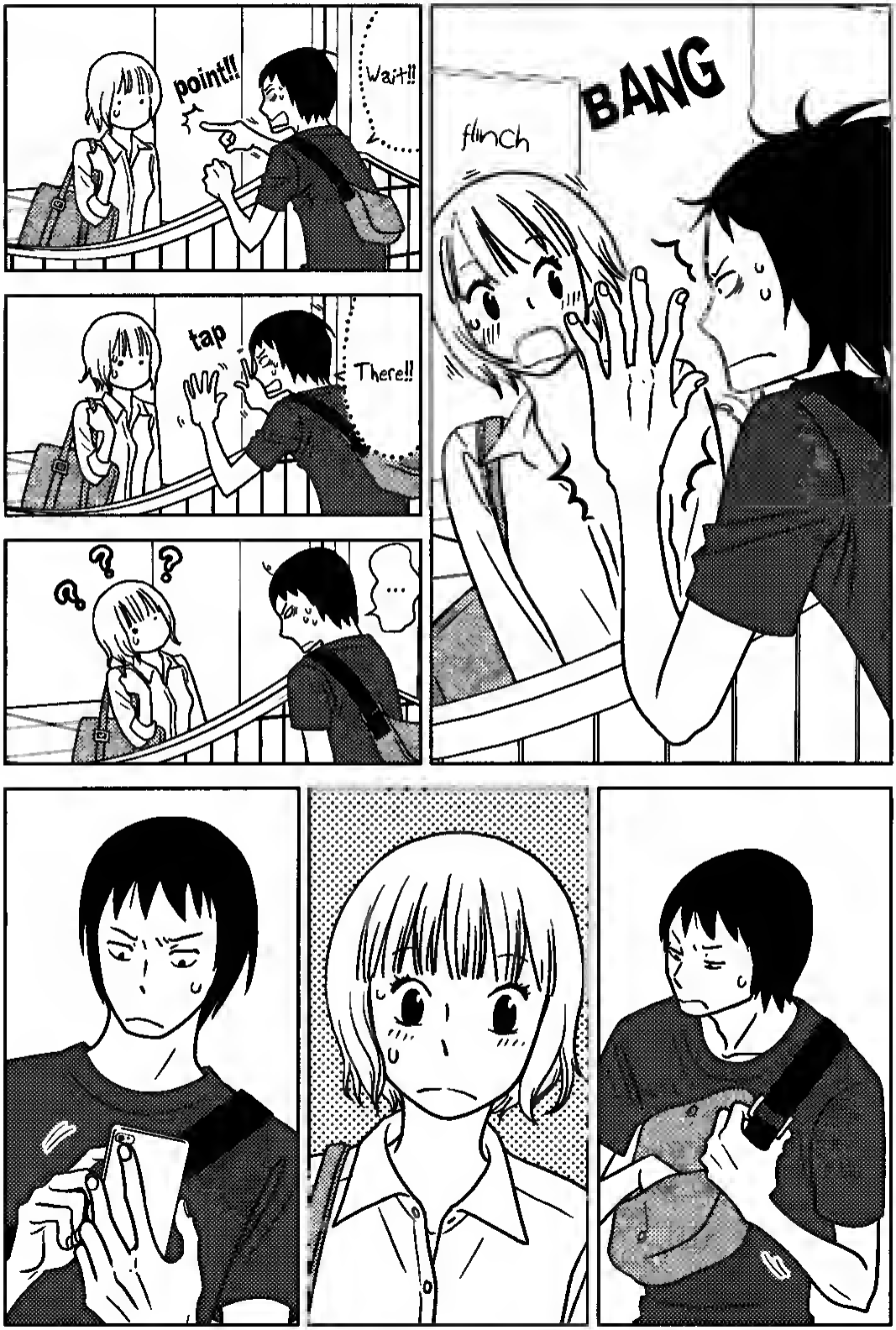

EITHER WAY, HOW AM I GOING TO TALK TO HER ACROSS THE GLASS...
Make a hand gesture?

MAINLY BECAUSE OF HIM
ACTUALLY, MY NIGHTS ARE MOSTLY LATE ONES...

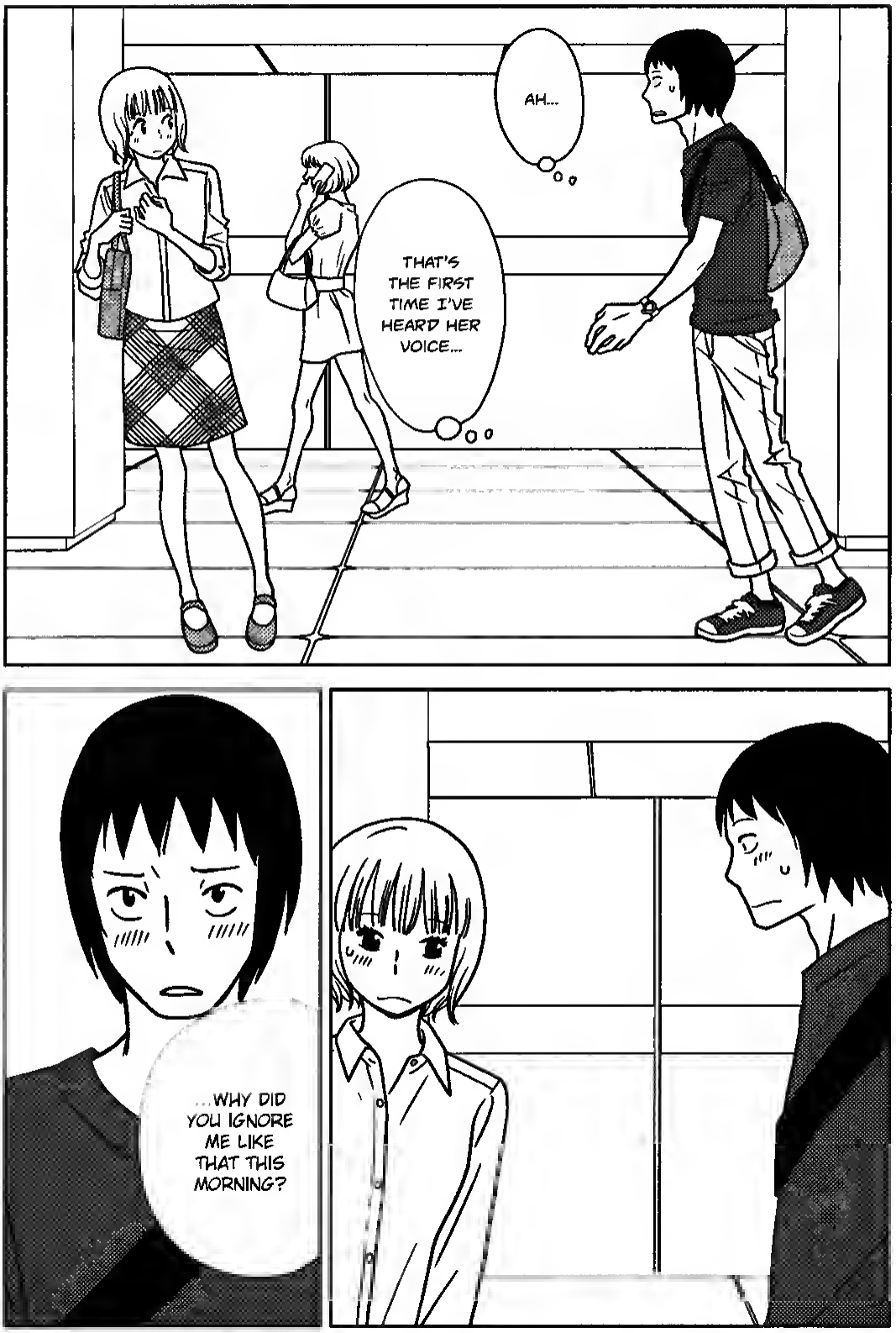

I'LL CONFIRM WITH THE CLIENT RIGHT NOW.
I'M GOING HOME AT A NORMAL TIME TODAY EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!
'GRATS! THANKS A LOT.
FINISHED!!

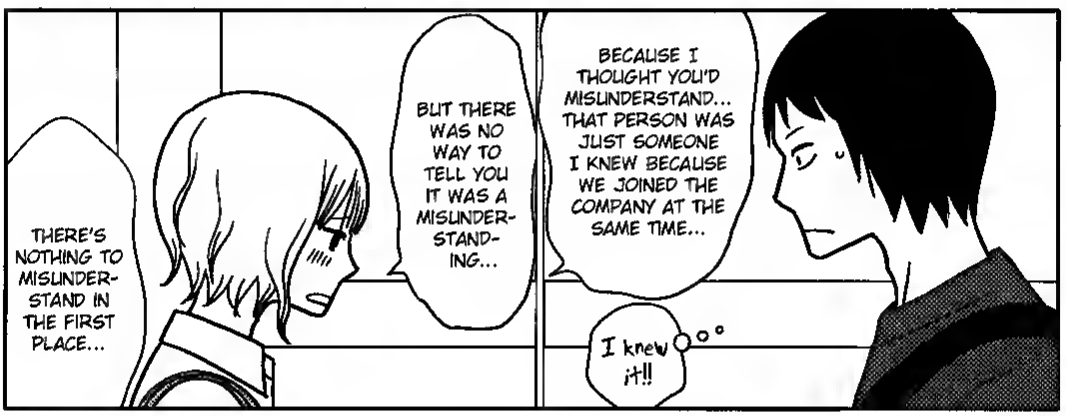


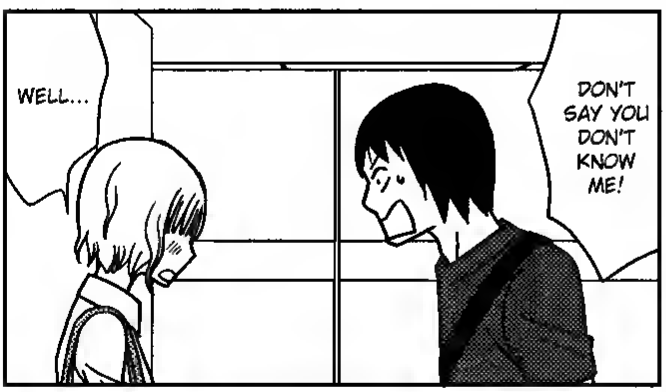
DON'T!
I'LL CALL YA IF THERE'S SOMETHING MAJOR.
ALL RIGHT— GO HOME, GO HOME. IS IT A DATE?
THERE'S NOTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO EVEN WHEN I GO HOME AT A NORMAL TIME...
WELL.
WHAT THEEE?!


point!!
Wait!!
tap
There!!
???
...
flinch
BANG

ZOOM
wait there
gape...
gape...
WHY ARE YOU RUN-NING!!
HEY, HEY, HEY!
BECAUSE YOU'RE CHASING ME!
thomp thomp thomp thomp thomp


AH...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD HER VOICE...
...WHY DID YOU IGNORE ME LIKE THAT THIS MORNING?

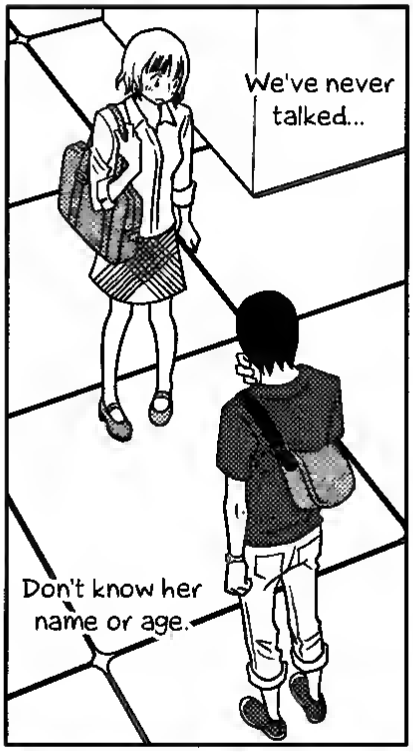

BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D MISUNDERSTAND... THAT PERSON WAS JUST SOMEONE I KNEW BECAUSE WE JOINED THE COMPANY AT THE SAME TIME...
I knew it!!
BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO TELL YOU IT WAS A MISUNDER-STAND-ING...
THERE'S NOTHING TO MISUNDER-STAND IN THE FIRST PLACE...


DON'T SAY YOU DON'T KNOW ME!
WELL...

I DON'T
KN... KNOW YOU...

I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOU...
YOUR NAME OR AGE...

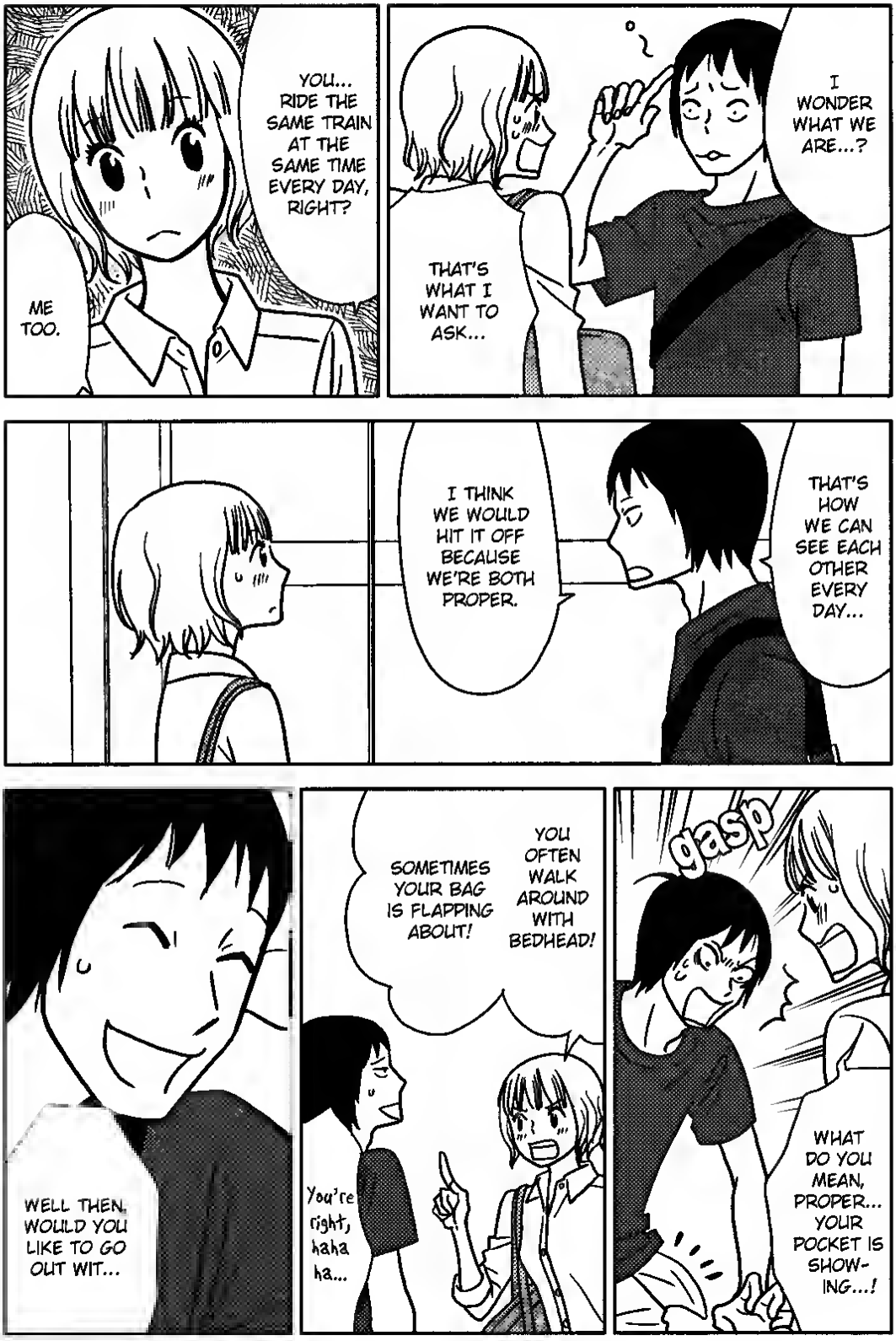
AM I... SAYING SOMETHING WEIRD...
MAYBE...?
HUH?
WELL...


We've never talked...
Don't know her name or age.

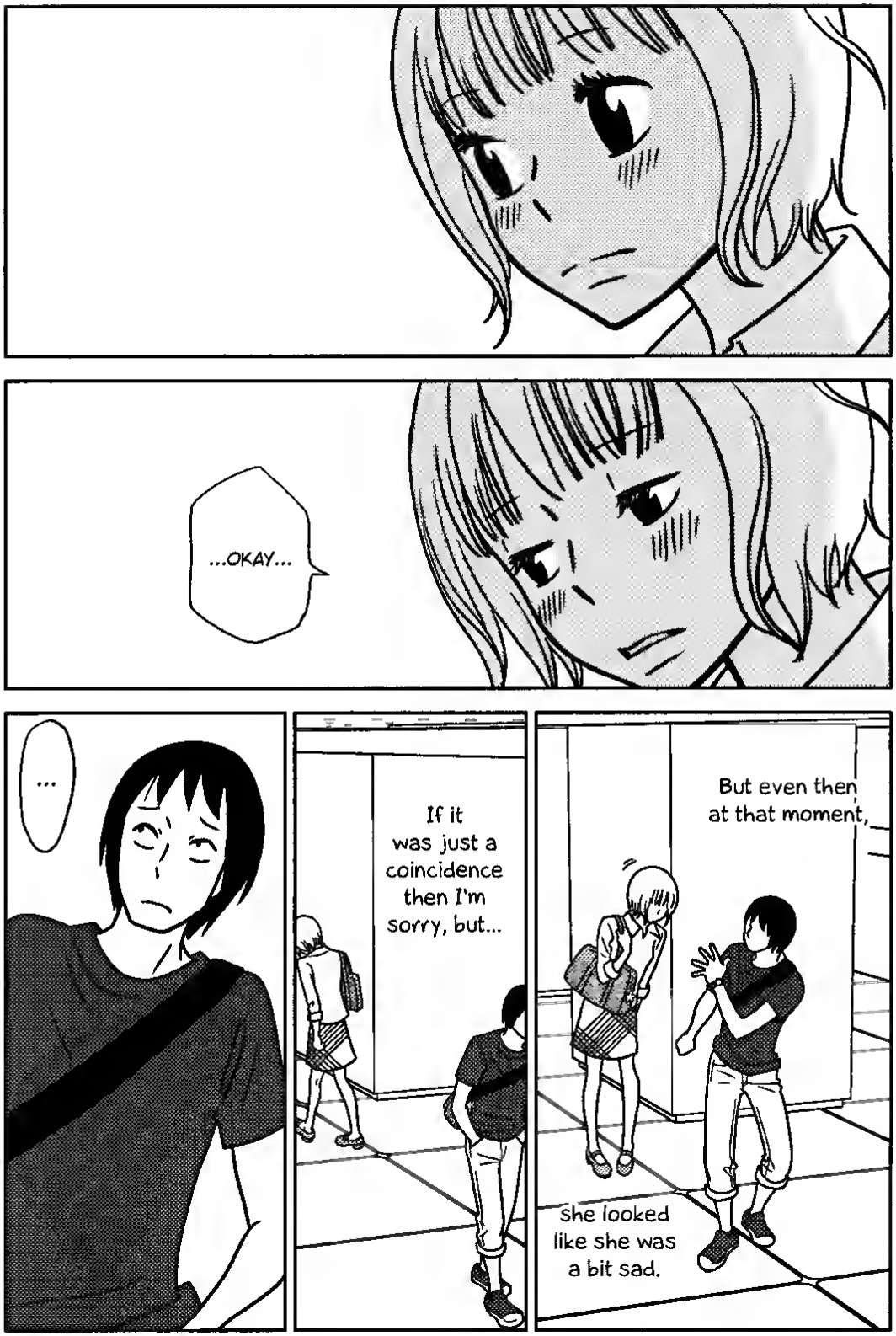
Her favorite color is probably orange.
Her style of dress is pretty simple,
but the main theme is bright orange.

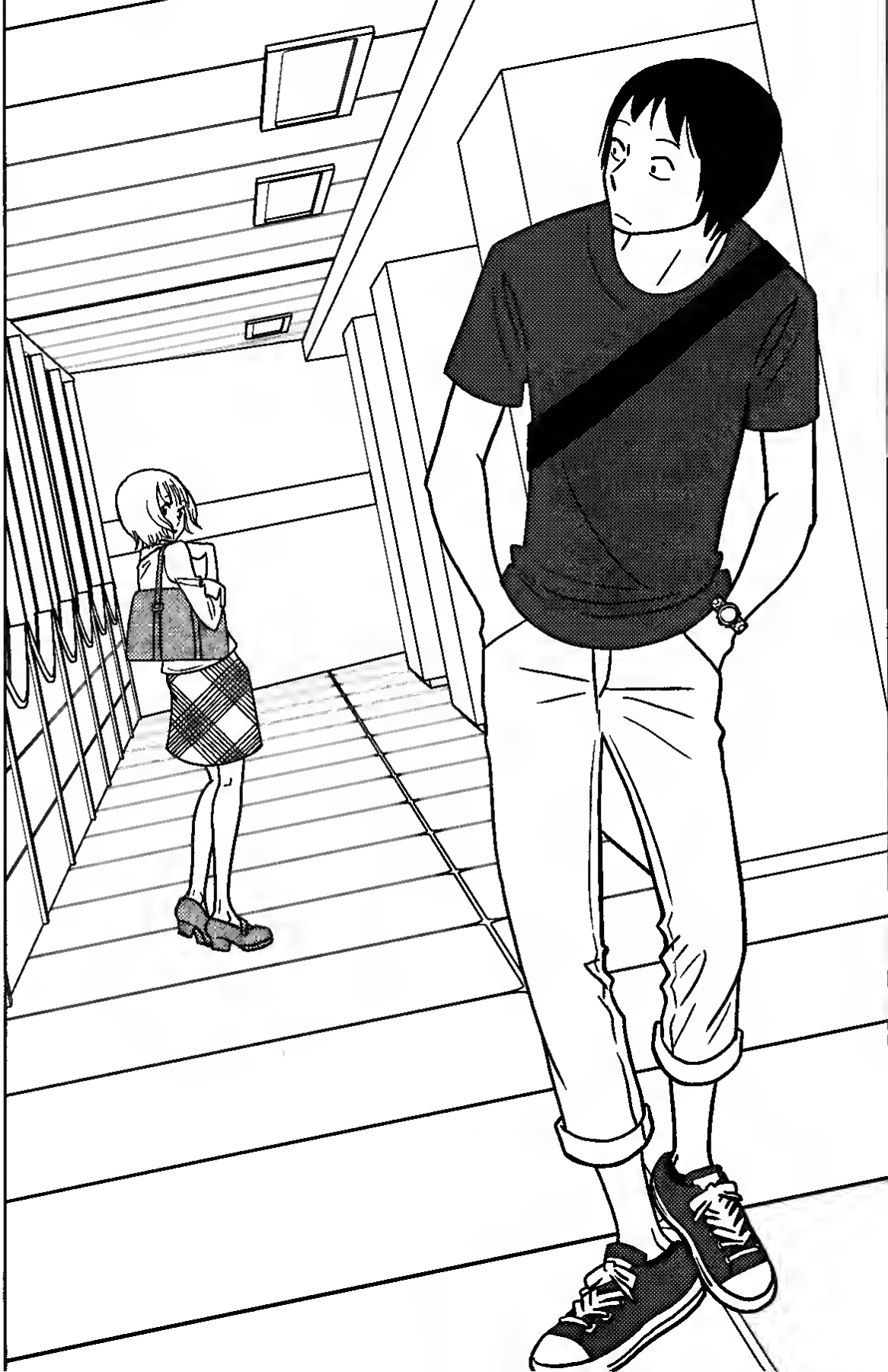
Think clearly.
I see this girl every morning at the station.
Only in the morning.

Well... since we've never talked,
that really does make us strangers!


YOU... RIDE THE SAME TRAIN AT THE SAME TIME EVERY DAY, RIGHT?
ME TOO.
I WONDER WHAT WE ARE...?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO ASK...
I THINK WE WOULD HIT IT OFF BECAUSE WE'RE BOTH PROPER.
THAT'S HOW WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER EVERY DAY...
WELL THEN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WIT...
You're right, haha ha...
SOMETIMES YOUR BAG IS FLAPPING ABOUT!
YOU OFTEN WALK AROUND WITH BEDHEAD!
gasp
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PROPER... YOUR POCKET IS SHOWING...!

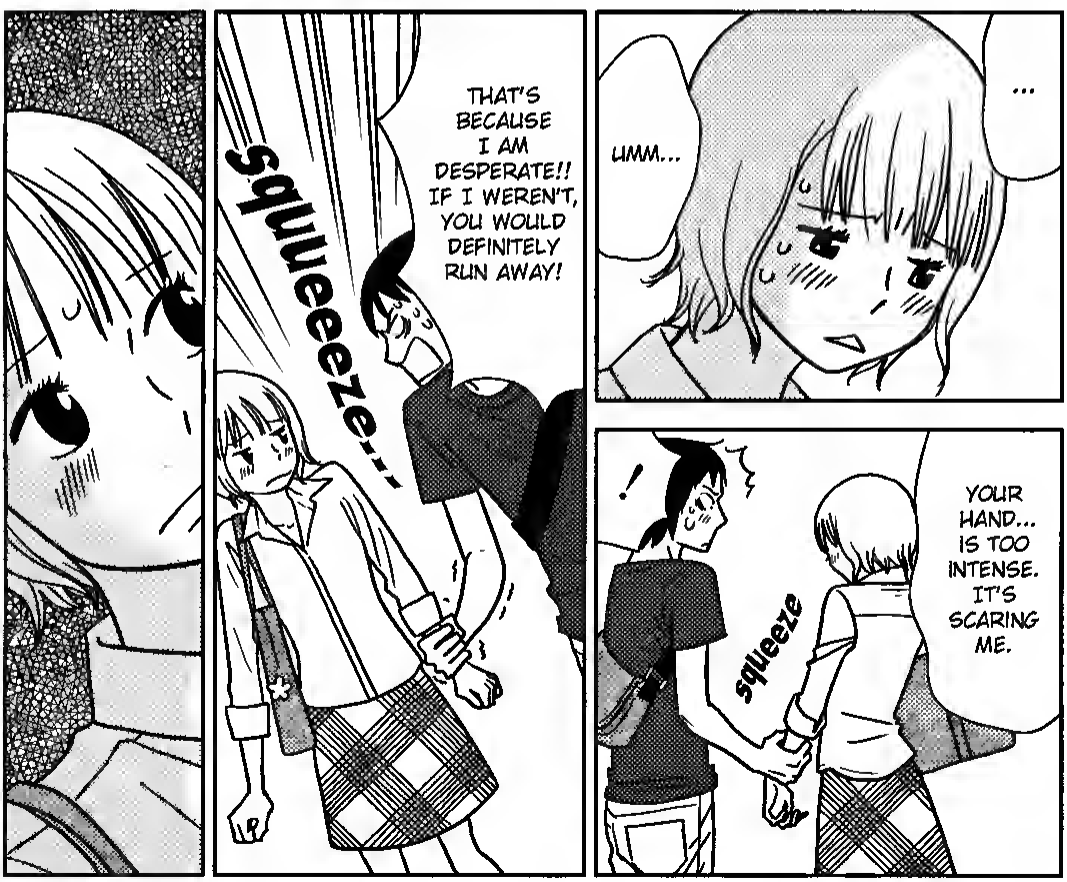
I DON'T KNOW!
WELL THEN, WHAT SHOULD I DO!!
YOU'RE SEDUCING ME NOW?!
...
I'M SORRY FOR SAYING WEIRD THINGS AND WASTING YOUR TIME.
I'LL.. GO HOME NOW.

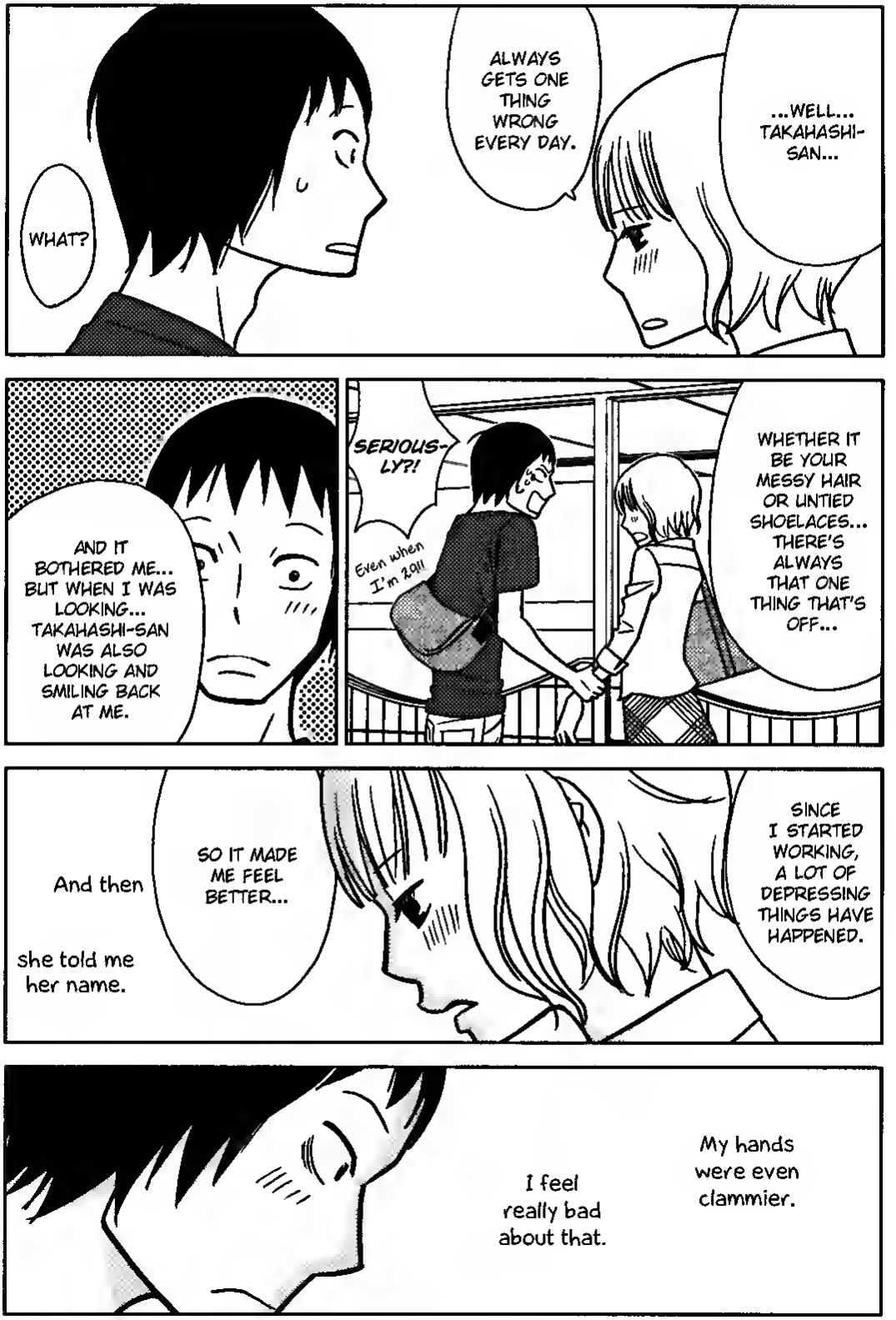

...OKAY...
...
If it was just a coincidence then I'm sorry, but...
But even then at that moment,
She looked like she was a bit sad.

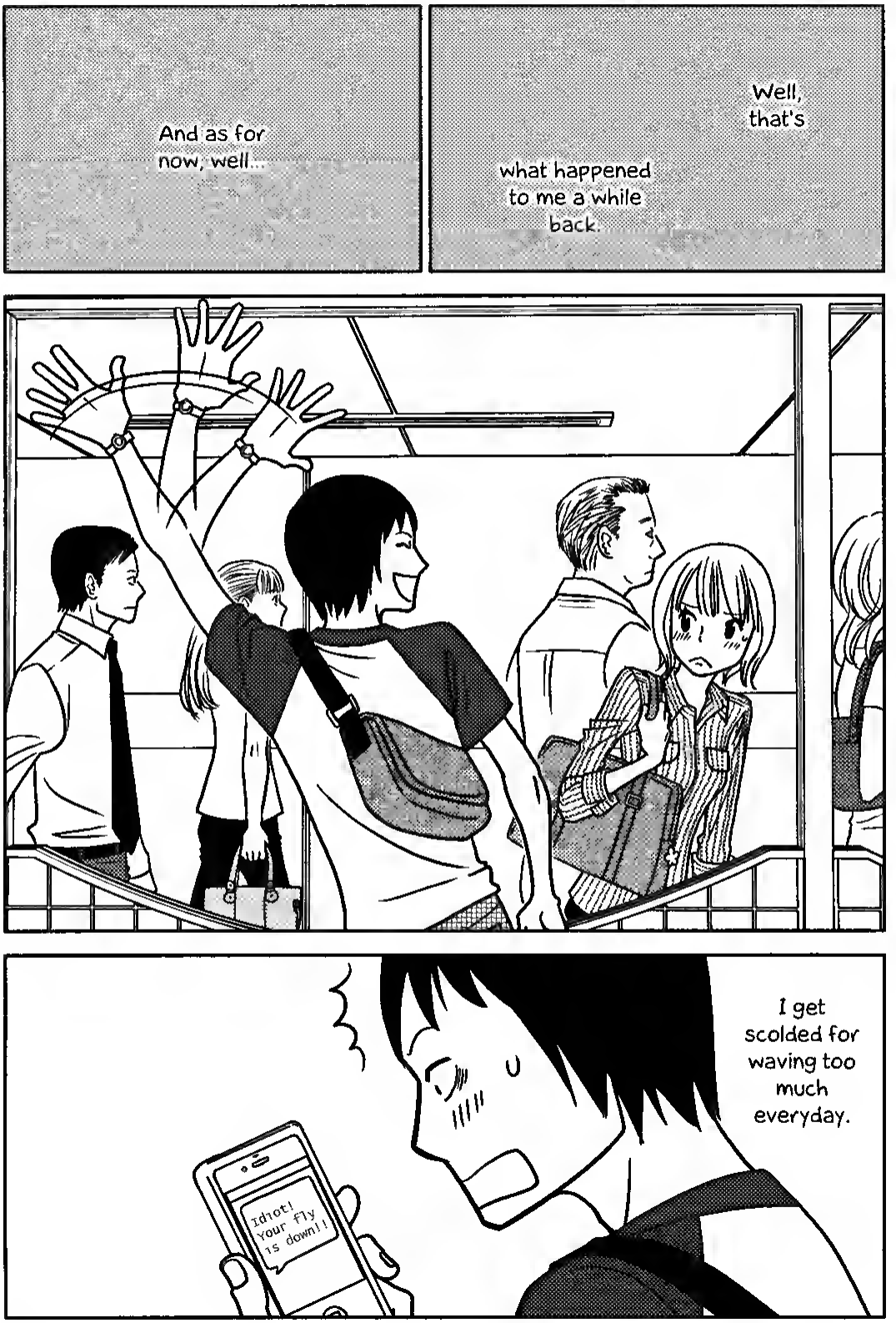


thomp thomp thomp
YOU WERE JUST LOOK-ING!
WEEELL!

MY NAME IS TAKAHASHI, 29 YEARS OLD.
IT'S A BIT SAD IF I'M JUST A "STRANGER", SO...!


...
UMM...
THAT'S BECAUSE I AM DESPERATE!! IF I WEREN'T, YOU WOULD DEFINITELY RUN AWAY!
squueeeze...
!
squeeze
YOUR HAND... IS TOO INTENSE. IT'S SCARING ME.


WHAT?
ALWAYS GETS ONE THING WRONG EVERY DAY.
...WELL... TAKAHASHI-SAN...
AND IT BOTHERED ME... BUT WHEN I WAS LOOKING... TAKAHASHI-SAN WAS ALSO LOOKING AND SMILING BACK AT ME.
SERIOUS-LY?!
Even when I'm 29!!
WHETHER IT BE YOUR MESSY HAIR OR UNTIED SHOELACES... THERE'S ALWAYS THAT ONE THING THAT'S OFF...
And then
she told me her name.
SO IT MADE ME FEEL BETTER...
SINCE I STARTED WORKING, A LOT OF DEPRESSING THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.
I feel really bad about that.
My hands were even clammier.


And as for now, well...
Well, that's what happened to me a while back.
I get scolded for waving too much everyday.
Idiot! Your fly is down!!

Fin